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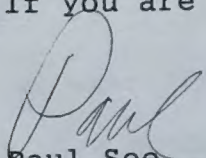
Dear Lisa:

I don't know if the enclosed letters will be of interest to you as a Cumtux item, but thought I'd send them on anyway. If they have no value, please chuck them. I won't be upset.

My grandfather, Josiah West, was a farmer and cheesemaker on Clatsop Plains, and raised a whole wagonload of kids. My mother, Violet, was his youngest. I'm sure you have other info about the family, including clips in Inez Hanson's "Life on Clatsop."

I've been dabbling with the family genealogy, and hit the jackpot in NY State about 18 months ago. There are about eight other letters in the group, detailing the daily progress and setbacks in the West Lake farm operation, as well as the activities of the kids thru the 1890's.

If you are interested, let me know.


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TRANSCRIPT OF LETTERS FROM JOSIAH & LAMIRA WEST
TO RELATIVES IN CASTLE CREEK & RIVERHEAD NEW YORK, 1860 THROUGH 1900.
OBTAINED FROM FILES OF BROOME COUNTY HIST. SOC., N.Y., OCTOBER 1997
TRANSCRIBED BY PAUL SEE

(Letters donated to Hist. Soc. by Syrena H. Stackpole, Riverhead NY, in 1970. All letters are Xerox copies of originals in Historical Society files. Because they are old and faded, some words are undecipherable on the copies. We have added question marks or brackets and dashes at some of these points. Spelling and punctuation has not been altered from the original)

#1 JOSIAH TO CALEB & HARRIET, CASTLE CREEK
Washington Co. Oregon Feb. 15th. 1860
Dear Caleb and Harriet

It is a long time since I have written to you or have received anything from you. But I have by no means forgotten you, or the many kindnesses that I received at your hands while I was in your part of the world. I suppose that I am in another part of the world geographically speaking and I am certainly among people that are somewhat different. But these differences are of minor importance. The great heart of enlightened humanity is about the same everywhere. It beats as truly here as at the place of my nativity. It don't make so much difference where a person is as what they are.

You have probably learned ere[?] this by our folks that I left Wisconsin last spring during the "Pikes Peak" excitement for that place or the Pacific, as the case might be, viz; to the former if I thought it would pay when I got to the diggings but to the latter if I thought otherwise. The result was that on account of the large emigration to Col. I concluded to come to Oregon. I have no reason to say that I have left home as yet except that I came to Oregon. I saw much that was new or interesting of which I had no idea of nor ever could have except by personal observations in crossing "The Plains".

I had no idea of the vast amount of barren worthless country there was in the W.[?] G. P. [Western Great Plains?] I travelled more than a thousand miles without seeing a place where a white man could live. The country is mostly covered with wild sage and greesewood. The former is very much the nature of wormwood. It sometimes grows several feet high and several inches in diameter. The latter is about as large as current bushes and is covered with thorns. We sometimes used the sage brush for fewel. It is very disagreeable stuff to have anything to do with. We travelled four hundred miles at one time with no other fewel than buffalo "chips" which are no more nor less than buffalo ---dung, but it makes a very good fire and does not smell as disagreeably as the sage brush.

We found scarcely any grass after we left the Platte River except little patches on the streams until we got into Oregon. There is not timber enough on the whole route to make ties for a Pacific Rail road which old Buck harpes about in his message. But enough of this. I could spin out yarns to an indefinite length about mountains, buffaloes, antelopes, Indians, etc., etc. but I don't feel like it at present. I must tell you about Oregon. Myself,

I like Oregon very well but it is by no measure a perfect paradise. That place is always a little ahead of the emigrant. The surface of the state is mountains and valleys. The latter is very rich generally and the climate is much milder than that of N. Y. or Vmt. The frogs are peeping and they are and have been croaking and sowing all of their [-----] so far and some in last. There has been but very little weather that has been too cold to plow this winter and they tell me that it has been colder than common but not so much rain. It has been a very pleasant winter. More so than is common, they say.

It is a fine fruit and grain country excepting corn. It is not hot enough in summer for it. It is by all odds the greatest apple country that I was ever in. The trees from three or four years upward were literally breaking down with fruit. Peaches don't do so well in all parts. They have by far the best winter wheat here that I ever saw. Cattle sheep and horses keep in good condition without feeding in winter where the range is not over stocked. The wild grass keeps green all winter.

The inhabitants are just as they are elsewhere - good bad and indifferent. This community where (and in fact generally speaking excepting on the border settlements) is composed of a very good set of inhabitants. They are not so narrow minded and abigated[?] as in some oldest states. There is a good amount of intelligence and as much mara--te[?] as in any community. I am teaching a country school. I get \$50 per month and board. I teach 20 days a month. [sentence obliterated]---several offers to teach this summer.

There is a good deal of stir about some new gold mines in Washington Territory. Many are going [----] some of it. I would like to make you a visit in your house about summer or spring time. Perhaps I may some time. I don't know but I may settle here in Oregon. I don't know yet.

Truly yours

Good Night

Josiah West

#2 JOSIAH TO HARRIET, CASTLE CREEK

Clatsop Plains, Oregon Feb. 15, 1872

Dear Sister Harriet

I have been thinking of writing to you for a long time. I have by no means forgotten you or the many kindnesses that I have received at your hands. I would be thrice happy to be able to step in and spend one of these long winter evenings with you and family. I have indulged the idea of going back and seeing my old friends so long without being any nearer that I almost despair of ever doing so. The strongest attachment to draw me back is now gone from earth forever. I have had other friends there of whose affection and sympathy still cheers life's rugged pathway. But none ever enters into the soul's inner [-----] and stirs it with that unfailing devotion as the memory of a mother. Mutability [?] is said to be the law of nature but that is everlasting. You have met with many changes and one great loss since I last saw you. Your children are men and women -most of them- and I too feel that I am getting to be almost an old man.

Probably our folks informed you of my marriage. We have three children. The oldest a girl by the name of Mary. She is going to school. This is her first term and she is learning very fast. She will be seven years old next June. The second is a boy by the name of Lloyd Garrison. He will be five next August. He is some help to me now about taking care of the stock and lots of company when I am at work. The youngest is Willis, a mischievous chap of two and a half years. He was a very puny child until last summer.

My wife had the fever and ague before he was born and he did also [suffer?]. He only weighed two pounds and a half and also had an abdominal rupture. But he is as stout and hearty as any child though small of his age. We got the photographs of the two oldest taken some little time ago but the artist has not sent them to us yet. I will send you one when I get them.

Sarah sent me some of you and Caleb and your little girl. I don't know her name. I would like to [---] some of the rest of your family. I can't quite fix up what sort of looking fellows Eugene and Philetus are since they are grown up. I will try and get some taken of the rest of my folks and will send some to you when I do.

I must tell you something of my whereabouts and surroundings. We are living one half mile east of the Pacific Ocean and ten miles south of the mouth of the Columbia River. We have only been living here since the first of Feb. {or Dec.??} {It be-} came a good deal on account of health. It is said to be the most healthy place in Oregon.

I bought one mile square (640 acres) All fenced into convenient fields with a good house and barns and orchard. 46 head of cattle, three horses, waggon, buggy, farming utensils, 15 tons of hay, 175 bushels of oats, 7 hogs, 39 sheep, 50 bu. potatoes, 200 bu. of rutabagas and some other things for five thousand dollars. The land is rated at 3000. It is about three fourths prairie with about 100 acres of cranbury marsh and 60 acres of timber. The prairie is a black sandy soil and is best adapted to grazing purposes though it produces very fair crops excepting wheat.

I still keep my old place in Washington County. I owe one thousand on that and \$2500.00 on this and have about \$1000 due me. I value that place at \$5000. It is 300 acres a good part bottom land. I have been a little particular in telling you the prices thinking that perhaps you and family might possibly think that you might better your circumstances by coming out here. It is a mild climate and cheap lands. There has been no snow here this winter but about 1 inch which lasted four days. I have [----] but two tons of hay this winter. We spent the summer on the tributaries of the Snake River about 100 miles north of Walla Walla. I did not like it there. To cold and wild, a grazing country.

Please write me soon and tell me all about the neighbors and relatives. Send it to Skipanon Clatsop Co. Oregon.
Yours affectionately
Josiah West

#3 JOSIAH AND LAMIRA TO HARRIET, CASTLE CREEK

Clatsop Oregon Jan. 17 1874

Dear Sister Harriet and Family

I am a long time answering your letter but I have by no means forgotten you. Rachel wrote soon after I got your letter telling Eugene that I thought that under the circumstances that he would probably do as well to stay where he is. We are enjoying our good health and I suppose have our share of life's enjoyments. Rachel and Reuben Watson and family have moved over to Shoalwater Bay in W. T. They are not settled yet. Watson is teaching in Oysterville Pacific County. Their health is generally improved. Rachel wrote that her's and Reuben's was much better there than it was here. I think that the country there is a good one to make a good plain living but is rather new and tolerable dull and slow. I saw William last October and his oldest boy Jerrold. He and family were well excepting his youngest child a boy about two years old. It has always been weakly and I think Wm. believes it ain't very smart. Maria's health has been poor for three or four years.

We have another girl five months old and call her Maude Myrtle. She is a large fat good natured baby. Our two oldest children are going to school (Chub and Burr we call them) The second boy Willis is around for all manner of mischief but he says "we need him" and I suppose we do.

I would like to be back and make you a visit but don't know when I will be able to do so. Possibly I may in 1876 go back to the Centennial exhibition if I get my debts payed first. I enclose Mary and Lloyds likeness taken together. Willis and mine also. I would like you not to wait as long as I have before you write. Tell me all you can think of concerning our friends and things in general. I guess that I will let Lamira finish out this as I don't think of much more to write. Please write on receipt of this.

Yours truly

J. West

p. s. Marys and Burrs pictures were taken two years ago. They are not good pictures.

Dear Sister

Although we have never met yet I feel as though I was pretty well acquainted with you for Josiah and Rachel have told me a great deal about you. And sometimes perhaps when your babies are better to take care of themselves I will come over to see you and for the first time I will see where the yankees come from. The weather here is rather cold and rainy have had some ice and three or four inches of snow this winter.

Your sister

Lamira West

#4 LAMIRA TO RACHEL LILLY

Clatsop July 29 [1878]?

Mrs Rachel Lilly

I have been intending all summer to inflict you with a letter but couldn't find time to do it. I didn't get anyone to help with my work so I have had

to get along the best way I could. Our children have been going to school to Mary Taylor for the last three months and Mary has been to learning play on the organ. (We have a new one) So you see I haven't had a great deal of time to spare. I intended to write to you right away after sending that small amount of renit to say that if you liked I could send you some more. Josiah thought from his experience you couldn't want any more. I am ever so much obliged to you for these dahlia bulbs some of them are as high as the picket fence but only two kinds have bloomed. And I am well pleased with the things that you got in Portland. I have got an extension table some silver and napkins and now if you was here I would make you a party.

I didn't get any of the plants that you sent to Philadelphia for. Mrs. Goodwin and Carnahan didn't know that I was to have any and they seemed to think that there wasn't enough for me but perhaps I will get some sprouts off of them next year. I didn't know whether you had sent [any] for me. I had company from Ast. last week but I shall not look for much company this summer. Mrs. Sherman died in Astoria about two weeks ago. Her death was caused by a bad cold and abortion. Old man Holiday has a young daughter but few folks have come to the coast this summer. Josiah has bought the church land of Mr. Condit. Price fourteen hundred. So now I suppose I shall have to cook for another man until that is improved. We have had two men all summer. Josiah has done the most of the churning and washed and worked the butter. We made a pound and a quarter of butter to the cow for a while. The cows have dried up a good deal lately. Our crops look well this year. Josiah got a horse power in the spring and intended to use it to thrash with and to churn but he will probably not get to churning with it this year.

The mumps went through our family about a month ago. We all have good health but Josiah, he is troubled a good deal with the headache. You will be glad to know that J. has subscribed for a fifteen dollar bible.

Tell Watson and Rebecca that I wish I had time to answer their letter and I wish more that they would write to us.

Lamira West

NOTE: while the year of this letter is not confirmed, there are three clues that suggest the date: Mrs. Sherman's death --Daily A obituaries?

Holiday's young dtr. --Saga of Ben Holladay?

Bought Condit DLC 2/4/78 #321, County records

#5 JOSIAH TO HARRIET, CASTLE CREEK

Clatsop, January 23, 1885

Dear Sister and Family

Your card was duly received a few days since. Also your photographs for which I also thank you. The photo looks as if you were in a good state of preservation. We received the photographs of Philetus and Mary. Would like Lilly's and Eugene's. We are in our usual health. Mary and Lloyd are at Salem at school. Mary is devoting most of her time to art studies. We had about 2 weeks of unusually cold weather with about 14 inches of snow

for 10 or 12 days during the last of Dec. There is no loss of stock here but in eastern Oregon where they have but little feed and no shelter the loss was considerable. I am wintering 166 head of cattle. Have stables and stantions for all of them although I haven't put about 50 of them in yet. Haul a load of rutabagas to them every day. I raised about 300 tons of them last summer. I only gather them as I want to feed them.

Have been making butter and cheese all winter. The cheese has taken a tumble.

Is down to 13 to 14 [cents]. Has been 16 to 18 for about 3 years. Last winter was ready sale at 20. Everything is plentiful but money. The salmon canney on the Columbia River caught and canned too much fish so the market is flat. Wheat is down to 50 or 60 cents a bushel but money is very close. I will have about 60 head of cows and young stock to sell this year.

[----] are a good price though beef is not as high here as with you so that I will get along I think. My expenses are heavy. Have 4 hired men and the two children that are away are about the same as two more. The rest go to school at home that are old enough to be of any help.

I thought to come and make you a visit and go to the New Orleans exebision But things didn't come around in proper shape. I think I will come in a year or so anyway. Rachel was here about two months ago. She thinks she will go to Santa Barbara Cal. next spring where she expects Rosetta --- her husband is there now. I was at Kendrick's and William's last fall. They are as well as usual. Wm. is a criple in one knee as you have perhaps heard. That weakly child of theirs is dead. Ellen has been a widow for two years. Her husband died of Catarrh. Kenton Keene's oldest boy is married and has bought his father's store. Wm's oldest boy is married. Lives in Eastern Washington. The next Henry [?] has a place near his father's. Expects to be married soon [--- --- ---].

I guess that I have written about all that will be of interest to you though I don't know as you are acquainted with with our youngest children. I will commence with Paul the baby 2 years old. He is our only blue eyed boy. Is a mighty good boy. Theodore Parker will be 5 next April. He is good and smart two. Then comes Rose the only blue eyed girl. Then Daisy Evangeline who is a great singer for her age and playes very well. Then Maud Myrtle who is one good girl for all work [-----] the little ones. The girls are a good deal of help to ride horses and drive up the cows. They feed the calves and the horses most of the time putting them in the stable while the older boys and hired men are milking.

Please write me a good long letter on receipt of this and tell me all about the old neighbors and our cousens that are left. Are our uncles Josiah and Eleflet alive yet? Give my respect to all of my old acquaintances. Tell me what has become of my old school mates. [Is?] L B Smith the old singing teacher there yet and the Hak[---] Spencer and Frenches fam?

yours

J West

#6 JOSIAH TO HARRIET, CASTLE CREEK

Clatsop Nov 11, 1892

Dear Sister

I have been thinking about writing to you for a long time but having a great many letters to write on business (I do most of my business in that way. Have been dealing with some men in Portland for 15 years and only seen them two or three times) and have a habit of writing just before the mail comes along. So writing that which is not an absolute necessity gets delayed.

We are all enjoying our usual health. I will tell you about our folks first. Mary got tired of teaching this fall and has gone into a hospital in Portland to learn medicine. I don't know whether she has concluded to take a full course or not. A full course is for two years. It is about the same as at Bellview Hospital N. Y. I don't like to have her there as there is little for her to do it for a living. She can get \$50 a month for teaching and has a quarter section of land she took out that she could get \$2500 for. Lloyd and Willis are working on their places nearby but don't seem to have much ambition to get ahead but are temperate and well behaved. They are batching. Lloyd went to school last winter at the State Normal School where Maud and Daisy are taking a course. Maud will graduate at the end of this year. Rose Parker Paul are going to school at home. We have built a fine new school house this summer have a bell we can hear two miles and a first class teacher. Violet stays at home yet. She was 5 last Feb.

My wife is some better mentally for the last year or two but not able to take charge of household affairs. She does some work helps skim the milk and washes the cans makes quilts and is as happy as a clam. She don't worry herself about anything. She goes to church and Sunday School calls on the neighbors. Her health physically is perfect eats and sleeps well.

But I see I am writing you a long letter. I see Wm's and Kendrick's folks about twice a year. Wm comes down generally every summer. His youngest girl May graduated at the Normal School last summer and his youngest boy Bret is now there. He got to be rather of a rough boy at home. Got his leg broke by his horse falling with him. I guess he is doing better now. N. K.'s boys the three oldest are married and have stores of their own. I should have said the oldest Kenton had been married but his good for nothing wife got a divorce but still hangs about him for her support. The last I heard of her she was rooming over his store. N. K.'s youngest boy Orvel seems to be good boy but is only a pet. They don't put him at anything but riding a bicycle running a play thing of a printing press, etc. Wm's oldest boy Jerrod has poor health and a poor manager. His father has to help him make a living. His 2nd. Harry has a nice wife and is getting along first rate.

Now for a little in regard to my affairs. We have milked from 50 to 60 cows this summer. Keep about 400 sheep about 20 horses including colts and a few young stock. Beef, dairy products and horse have been going down the last few years. Mutton is a fair price. I have been trying to work into sheep and now I have got something of a start. The Democrats will kick that business out soon. Cleveland is said to be elected. Wages for farm work are

the same old figures \$30 a month. So there is but very little in farming. It takes all and a little more than I can make to live and send the girls to school and run the Prune ranch. I make nothing off from it yet. There would have been fruit perhaps enough to pay expenses this year but it was an off year. Bad weather in the spring. The trees look remarkably well. They were 1 year old when I set them out. It is 3 years since the first were set. Many of them are 8 inches in diameter. Some made a growth of 9 feet this year. I cut back last years growth to about 1 foot. Will cut this years nearly as much so as to make a stronger branch. I have set out 7000 trees all together. A few died the first spring from being put out too late. The land and orchard (42 acres in trees) has cost about \$7000. There will be about two or three thousand trees that will have some fruit next year if it is a good year and I am in hopes it will pay pruning expenses. I have been to about \$1500 expenses ditching my marsh land this summer and am not done yet.

I send you two pictures of my house taken one across the lake and the other from the front yard. You can see myself standing on the porch Parker with his gun the girls playing croquet. You can keep one and send the other to Mary. Write soon and tell me how you are all getting along and all about the old neighbors.

Yours affectionately
Josiah West

[Edge note:] Wm's wife died 2 years ago

#7 JOSIAH TO HARRIET, CASTLE CREEK

Clatsop March 20, 1893

Dear Sister:

I received your kind letter some time ago and have set a time to answer it several times but something else claimed my attention. I wrote part of one a week ago but it is mislaid so I commence again. I was very glad to hear of your good health and that your children and grand children are getting along so well. I have been working some on my prune orchard for the last two weeks. My folks are all well. I stop with Maud who is married and lives here. She has a good husband and a pleasant home. Her husband is a young lawyer just about her age was our school teacher for two years and is getting into practice fairly well. They have one little girl not very well. Can't digest milk very well. They feed her mostly on Mellins food. I think she will get along all right after a while as they have got a fresh cow and are using some milk with the food. They call her Rose. Mary has two fine boys the oldest two years old Carrol. The youngest seven or eight months old. They live about 20 miles away from my home. I see her husband frequently at Astoria. He is county commissioner for our county.

I was down in California soon after receiving your letter. Rose went with me. We vissetted Rosetta Newbold Rachels daughter. She has one daughter with her one married in Iowa. One son practicing medicine in Cal. and one working in a sawmill in Wash. They have a nice home in the suburb of a little town 10 miles from San Francisco. Haywards. They only have 1 1/2 acres of land all in fruit but some income from the money they sold their farm in Iowa. I also visited she that was Emma Smith's uncle Eliphet's

daughter. Her husbands name is Hall. They live 70 miles north of San Francisco in Healdsburg. Her husband is harness maker and in very comfortable circumstances. They have two sons both married and have each one child.

I have rented out my dairy farm in Clatsop and will have more leisure time now. I keep my residence. Rose Paul and Violet are at home. Theo. Parker is at the Agricultural College at Corvallis. Is in the sophomore class. Lloyd Garrison is married and lives on his farm in Clatsop. Willis and Daisy are in Astoria.

Since writing the above I have listened to a lecture on the place of John Brown in history by Mr. Copeland the minister of the Unitarian church. It came about that he gave the lecture in this way. The president of the university in a lecture on history scored John Brown as traitor and murderer. Mr Copeland gave a very graphic but fair account of the antislavery agitation in Kansas Boston and the country generally and certainly vindicated Brown. One of his grand-daughters was at the meeting and gave a violin solo.

We are having some bad frosts here- about the hardest of the season. They have done a great deal of damage in Cal. but I don't think the fruit here is far enough along to hurt anything here. Fruit seems to stand lots of frost here just before it comes into blossom and after too so the ground is not too wet and cold. My orchard payed very well last year about \$1000 net. I have willed it and am going to deed it to my four oldest girls. The fair to St. Paul is now \$10 in the tourist cars and they are clean and very comfortable. If any of you folks are ever coming out to see us now is a good time. I would like to here about the old neighbors. Get Libby to write to me. I will write the next you write sooner. Hoping to hear from you soon.

I am truly yours

J. West

p. s. I wrote Mary a long letter and guess I disgusted her. Tell her I won't write that way again if she will [obscured]

#8 JOSIAH TO MARY H. STACKPOLE, RIVERHEAD NEW YORK

Clatsop, April 20, 1893

Dear Niece

Your letter was duly received. Also a paper having an article on scientific cooking, for which accept thanks. I was glad to hear from you.

Your children are bright and pleasant looking and I sympathize in the loss of one of them. We have been very fortunate in regard to our children's health. We have had 6 born here --- have been here 21 years and have never sent for a doctor for sickness for one of them or the other three since they have been home. Two of them while away to school in the Willamette Valley had a doctor once each. They all have robust health and fair abilities and so far have not dishonored their parents. Still I don't think two older boys make much of their opportunities as they might. They are knocking around on some land I gave them in rather a listless bachelor style. My girls seem to have more

ambition than the boys. They are all single and I don't see any expectations of their being otherwise. Mary the oldest is taking a course in a hospital as a trained nurse. The only reason she gave me was that she was tired of teaching school. She has daily (I believe) lectures and recitations. Gets \$12 per month and works early and late --- has been there since last Sep. and I guess intends staying the full course of two years. I don't like to have her there very well. She had no trouble in getting \$50 a month teaching school. She has 160 acres of land which she preempted and paid for which is quite valuable for timber. I suppose she could get \$2500.00 for it.

Maud and Daisy are taking a course in the State Normal School. Maud will graduate in about two months. She is a first rate girl and quite ambitious in her studies. Daisy a fine musician for the opportunity. She is frequently leader (Captain, they call it in their consorts) in a school of sometimes 350 students. She has also quite a capacity for acting but I don't encourage that. Mary is also a fine singer and organist. She spent a year in the art school in S. F.

Rose the 4th. girl is at home acting as cook and housekeeper with her mother's help. She thinks her teacher in our school is too arbitrary. Theodore Parker and Paul are getting along quite well with him and so is Violet who has just commenced to go.

May 15. You will see by this date that I started this letter some time ago. I have not been very well some of the time and quite busy and did not feel much like writing. We have had a remarkable amount of rain this spring with an average low temperature. The fruit trees are fully a month later in bloom than last year but the prospect is for a good crop.

My men on my prune ranch in Salem write me that chances are in favor of quite a little crop on my three years old prune and peach trees. 2000 are about three years old out [of] about 7000. There has been a wonderful number of prune trees put out this last three years on this coast. I have no doubt but what the business will be overdone. We raise the finest in the world in Oregon but they can dry them cheaper in the sun in Cal. They use evaporators [in] Oregon. The fruit is quite as good and some think superior but more costly to dry. Some tell of average trees that would produce 30 tons on an acre of dried fruit. But that is too fabulous to believe. Divide it [by] 10 and it is enough.

We would like to have you and your husband come and see us this summer "awful" well. Maud and Daisy will be home for three months after the latter part of June and it will be a pleasant time to be here on the coast as it is the lively season of the year. It's the most popular summer resort of Oregon. The Chatauqua Circle have a yearly encampment 2 1/2 miles from here near the beach, a fine assembly hall and distinguished lecturers. We have the best clams and crabs and as good trout fishing as the world affords I guess. Won't you bring your mother along? (It may be too long a trip for her. She writes of coming out as far as sister Sarah's and attending the world's fair and having a family reunion there). I would like to go but cannot say now whether it would be practi-[?] for me to go or not.

If you come to S. F. you would do well to call on cousin Emma Hall. She used to be Emma E. Smith uncle Eeliphlet's daughter. She lives in Heildsburgh a few miles from S. F. You would not have any trouble in finding her but had better write her first perhaps. She sent photos of her husband and boys and I think they will be a pleasant family to visit. I will write you births etc. of my family. I think a "pedigree" of the Wests would be interesting to the rising generation and will help you out by subscribing for some of them.

I don't think of anything of much interest that happened in crossing the Plains. It was a long and monotonous journey at the time. Please remember me to your husband and little girl and write me again soon.

Yours Truly
Josiah West

#9 JOSIAH TO HARRIET, CASTLE CREEK

Clatsop Jan. 14, 1899

Dear Sister

I received your welcome letter long time ago and meant to answer it right away but somehow did neglect it. But I promise you if you will answer this right away I will not be so remiss next time. My folks are all well. I don't remember whether my oldest son was married when I wrote you last. He is living on his place adjoining mine. Willis is stopping with us this winter. Parker and Paul are at the Oregon Agricultural College. They are taking an mechanical course. Mary lives 20 miles away. She has two fine boys Carol and Lawrence. Her husband is a one third partner with me in purchasing a 240 acre farm near Salem. Maud has a fine girl about 15 months old. She seemed to be troubled with indigestion although she was large and fat when she was born. But spending the summer down her brought her out all right and she can drink as much milk as a hog now although she had to live on Mellins food for the first six months. Her name is Rose.

Daisy is stopping with Maud in Salem. M's husband is making a brave fight to make a living in the law business and is just about making it. Rose is reading medicine with a woman doctor at The Dalls. Violet is all the girl we can count on at home. My wife is getting along with housekeeping very well. She has improved a good deal the last few years. She is better to have something to keep her mind active.

I have rented out the dairy and don't have very much that has to be done at a certain time with uncertain help. I don't know whether I will rent it next year or not. If not I think I will let the calves suck the cows and raise large veals.

My prune orchard did quite well. It netted over \$2000 last season. You can look for a little package by mail. They are what we call Italians. Please write me a letter on receipt this. I would like Libby to write. We used to be good chumies. Tell me about Eugenes folks Filetus and Marys and all the rest old neighbors

Your Brother
Josiah West

#10 JOSIAH TO HARRIET, CASTLE CREEK

Clatsop, Feb. 19, 1900

My Dear Sister

I have thought about writing you a good many times since I received your last letter but something came along or I felt too tired or something took my attention. So much for an appology. My people are all well and have been since I last wrote you excepting Daisy got wrong in her mind last summer. Her best young man volunteered when the war was declared against Spain and was sent to the Phillipines and stayed about a year longer than those that went to Cuba. He went through without a scratch or a days sickness and came back to San Francisco and was waiting there to be mustered out and I think Daisy was overjoyed. That and working unusually hard to get the house ready for some summer boarders seemed to string up her nerves so that she did not sleep much and was in a state of exaltation. She went to a Sanitarium for about four months which cost \$50 a week but is all right now. That was the first time I ever employed a Dr. at home for one of my children for sickness.

Maud lost her little girl last winter. She was a large healthy looking baby when she was born but some way could not digest her mothers milk nor cows milk. They kept her along on Mellins food for 4 or five months and brought her down here in the summer and she got aparently well and fat but got sick had what the Dr. called a constriction of the bowels and died in three days after.

Mary has 2 fine boys. Her husband had quite a streak of luck last fall. He was good to a crankey old batchelor that died at his house and he gave him 150 acres of land a band of cattle and some money. Her husband has been working for the same man running a diary and hay farm for over 20 years at from 30 to \$40 a month and loaning his wages. He now has 4 farms of about 150 acres each on average and some money on interest. The places have not more that 1 quarter or less under cultivation. He is county commissioner for a second term and makes about \$300 a year from that without any loss of time. He is partner with me in a farm I bought about 5 miles from Salem a year ago last fall for one third interest of 240 acres. There is 100 acres in cultivation the balance mostly in oak wood out of which we can net enough to pay for the land \$15 an acre. I did not intend to buy any more land but looked at the place for Chris and arguing him into it argued myself in too. I bought it mostly because I thought it a very good bargain not thinking of ever living on it. But this place being rented out and not liking the way the tenant was doing on the place. My wife Paul and Violet lived there several months last fall and the [---] part of the winter. It is healthful climate several springs on the place that come out of a rock and is strongly impregnated with iron that seemed to agree with me first rate.

We got the wood cut and haul it to Salem --- It is just about all the way down hill and put Angora goats on it. They eat the sprouts and are source of profit of about \$1.50 or more each for the Mohair. They kill out the stumps in about 4 years. I went in debt a \$1000 on that place. Cleared \$2300 on my prunes in 1898 but nothing last year --- was out quite a good deal last year to improve that place and stock it so I am in debt as usual. But if I get a

good crop of prunes this year I will come out all right. The money I had when I bought that place was in bank and they would pay no interest and I had too many friends that wanted to borrow and are never ready to [pay?]

We are back running the dairy. I thought to not milk any cows this year but let them in with their [?] and make big veal. But as I have one good milker tha has been on the place 4 years and have hired another --- a man with a family that boards himself that is a butter and cheesemaker perhaps we may milk about 40 of the easiest of them. I don't expect to make as much as I got us rent but the man did not want the place any longer and I can keep things up and together. They quit principally because they could not get reliable help. The U. S. Government employs from 150 to 200 men on the jetty and building a first class fort at the mouth of the Columbia River and pay \$1.50 a day of 8 hours and board. And there are many logging camps that pay 40 to 60 a month so it is hard to keep good men to work for a \$ for 12 hours which is all a dairy man can afford to pay. Parker and Paul are at the Agricultural College. Parker will graduate next summer. Daisy is at home. Rose is stopping down the coast. Please write me when you get this and I will not wait so long next time.
From your brother
Josiah

#11 JOSIAH TO HARRIET, CASTLE CREEK

Clatsop, Aug. 14, 1900

Dear Sister

I received your welcome letter just after I had written to you. Enclosed is a check for \$15 in favor of Libby. She can use it part for the cemetery and part for Theo. Parker or as she thinks best. I am not very flush this summer Prunes nor wheat are anything made in more {than?} expenses. The Hessian fly is the trouble with the wheat together an afis or louse. The French prunes are a good crop but mine are mostly Italians and have missed now two years in succession.

I have done very well with my dairy. Sold \$1500 a month for the last two months and have raised 70 calves 50 on whey and shorts. Stock is high but I have none to sell as my hay crop is large. 275 tons. I run a mowing machine to cut half of it and one of three wagons that have hauled it. My health and ? seem to better than formerly. Daisy was married to her Phillipene soldier boy and is all right. They are running our prune ranch. They were here for a month in hay time.

I have not much time to write as Lloyd is waiting to take this to the P. O. Please answer soon. I hope you and yours are well.
Your brother
Josiah West

Feb. 15, 1860

(Direct G. Portland Oregon) Lexington Co. Va. m

Dear Fanny and Harriet, Feb 15th 1850

It is a long time since I have written to you. I received
nothing from you. But I have by
it means forgotten you as the matter
of course that I received at your home
while I was in your part of the
world. I suppose that I am in another
part of the world a geographical
distance and I am certainly among
people that are somewhat different.
But these differences are of minor
importance. The great part of right-
eous humanity is about the same
everywhere. It beats as truly here as
at the place of my nativity. It does not
make so much difference where we
live as what they are.

1 You have probably learned in this, by our folks that I left Wrentham last of spring during the Pin & Pine experiment far. That place or to be as the case might be, to the farm if I thought it was near when I got into the main of the day but the the latter I thought so.

The result was that on account
of the large immigration to Cal
I concluded to come to Oregon.
I have had no money to pay for that
I left home in Oct. or that I arrived
Oregon. I saw much that was new
and interesting of which I had no
idea of nor ever could have except
by personal observation in Oregon.
"The Indians". I had no idea of the
vast amount of barren worthless
country there was in the N.W. P.
I walked more than 1000 mi. without
seeing a place where a white man
could live. The country is mostly
covered with wild sage and yucca.
The farmer is very much the nature
of warmwood. It sometimes grows
several feet high and several inches
in diameter. The latter is about as
large as current bushes and is covered
with berries. The Indians use
the sage brush for fuel. It is re-
sistible, stiff to handle and
to do with. We traveled four
miles at one time with no other
food but buffalo "chips" which are

me were not less than buffalo - and
dried, but it makes a very good fire
and does not smell so disagreeable as
the sage brush. We found scarcely any
grass after we left Platte except
little patches on the streams until we
got into Oregon. There is not timber
enough on the whole route to make
it for a Pacific Rail road which
Ed Beck Harper about in his
message. But enough of this. I
could spin out yarns to an infinite
length about mountains, buffaloes,
antelope, wolves, Indians &c. &c. but
I don't feel like it at present. I must
tell you about Oregon, even myself.
I like Oregon very well but it is
no more a perfect Paradise.
What price is always a little
head of the emigrant. The surface
of the state is mountains and valleys.
The latter are very rich generally.
The climate is much milder than
that of N.Y. or N.H. The crops are
better and there are more have been
located and growing all of them
as far and some in fact. The

has been. A very little winter
that has been. To cold to plant that
winter and they tell me that it has
^{been} colder than common but not so much
rain. It has been a very pleasant
winter - more so than is common. I
say. It is a fine fruit and grain country
excepting corn. It is not but more
in summer for it. It is by all odds
the greatest apple country that I ever
was in. The trees from three or four
years upward were literally breaking
with fruit. Peaches don't do well in all
parts. They have by far the best winter
wheat here that I ever saw. Cattle ship
and so on keep in good condition with
out feeding ^{in winter} where the range is not
over stocked. The wild grass keeps green
all winter. The inhabitants are just as
well as elsewhere good food and no
the community where (and in fact generally)
excepting on the border settlements) is
composed of a very good settlement.
They are not so many as in some
West states. It is a good amount of intelligence and as much
as in a community. I have teaching a number
of it \$50 per month and board. I teach 20 days in a month
and the balance of the time I am at home. Several
it is to teach this summer. There is a good deal of the about
some new gold mines in Washington Co. Many are going to
some of it. --- I would like to make you a visit in each
house about 25 or 30 days time. I have not been in
the way of it. I have not been in the way of it. I have not been in the way of it.

Feb. 15, 1872

~~My dear sister Harriett~~

Oregon 1872

Chatsworth Place N. C.

Dear Sister Harriett

I have been thinking of writing to you for a long long time. I have by no means forgotten you or the many kindnesses that I have received at your hands. I would be three times happier to be able to step in and spend one of those long winter evenings with you and family. I have indulged the idea of going back and seeing my old friends and relatives so long without him, and nearly there that I feel most despair of ever doing so. The strongest attachment to draw me back is gone from my heart forever. I have other friends the world over, and I sympathize with their life's rugged path. But I never get into the soul's inner temple and stay it with that.

unfailing devotion as the memory of
a mother. Mutability is said to be the
law of nature but that is everlasting.
You have met with many changes and
one great loss since I last saw you.
Your children are men and women
most of them and I too feel that I
am getting to be almost an old man.
Probably our folks informed you of my
marriage. We have three children the
oldest a girl by the name of Mary. She
is going to school now. This is her first
term and she is learning very fast.
She will be seven years old next June.
The second is a boy by the name of
Lloyd Garrison. He will be five next
August. He is some help to me now
about taking care of the stock and doing
company when I am at work. The
youngest is William. He is the middle
child of two and is half year. He was
a very funny child until last summer
he got better the summer before.
I was born and he did also.

he only weighed two pounds and a half
and also had an abdominal rupture.
But he is as stout and hearty as any
child though small of his age.

We got the photographs of the two oldest
taken some little time ago but the
artist has not sent them to us yet.
I will send you one when I get them.
Harrah sent me some of you and table
and your little girl (I don't know her name).
I would like to give some of the rest of
your family. I can't quite fix up what
part of looking like as I am.
Philetus are since they are gone.
I will be and get some taken. The rest
of my folks and will send some to you
when I do. I must tell you something
of my whereabouts and surroundings.
We are living on half an acre of the
Pacific Ocean and ten miles south of the
mouth of the Columbia river. We have only
one rising bar since the first of June.
I have been here since I had the. It
is said to be the most beautiful place in

Oregon. I brought over, with a near (640 acres)
full of wood into convenient fields with a good
house and barns and orchard 46 head of cattle
three horses and a buggy. I have extensive
15 tons of hay 1 1/2 of oats 4 bags 34 sheep 20 m
potatoes 200 bu of rutabagas and some other
things for five thousand dollars. The land
was rated at 3000 It is about three fourths
prairie with about 100 acres of crambury
marsh and 60 acres of timber. The prairie
is a black sandy soil and is best adapt-
ed to grazing purposes though it produces
very fair crops excepting wheat. I still
keep my old place in Washington Co.
I owe one thousand thousand in that and
\$2,500 on that and have about \$1000 due
me. I value that place at 5000. It is
in a good part bottom land. I have
own a little portion in telling you
the prices thinking that I should have and
cannely might passing them that you
might be able to see some more by having
it here. It is a mixed animal and sheep
land. There has been no snow for a few winter
but about 11 in which lasted four days. There
is a lot of hay this winter but at
times of snow. There has been some in the
winter. We spent the summer on the river. I
like the river. It is 100 miles north of the
I don't like it there. It is cold and wild. I am not
Please write me soon and tell me all about it.
It is in the same place as the one I am
in. Yours affectionately, J. H. H. H.

DEPT. CO. HIST. SOC.
Hayden

1984 H. 11. 30

Many and - I have been very
much - I have been very
much - I have been very
much - I have been very

Dear Sister

although we have
never met yet I feel as though
I was pretty well acquainted
with you for Josiah and Rachel
have told me a great deal
about you. and sometime perhaps
when my babies are better
able to take care of themselves
I will come over to see you
and for the first time I will
see where the gamboes come
from. The weather here
is rather cold and rainy
have had some ice and three
or four inches of snow this
winter.

Your sister

Laura West-

3
1/17/1874

1984 H. 11. 39
Hayes/Adair Co. 1
#34

Clatsop Oregon 1/17/1874

Dear Sister Harriet & Family
I am a long time answering
your letter but I have by no
means forgotten you. Rachel
wrote soon after I got your
letter - telling Eugene that
I thought that under the
circumstances that he would
probably do as well to stay where
is. We are enjoying very good
health and I suppose have
our share of life's enjoyments.
Rachel & Ruben Watson and
family have moved over
to Shoalwater Bay in W.B.
They are not settled yet.
Watson is teaching in Crater
ville Pacific Co. Their health
is generally improved. Rachel

wrote that hers and Rubens
was much better there. Mum
it ~~was~~ ^{is} here. I think that
the country ^{there} is a good one to
make a good plain living but
rather new and tollerable dull
and slow. I saw Willing last
Oct, and his oldest boy Jerred. He
and family were well excepting
his youngest child, a boy about
two years old. It has always
been weakly and I believe
that Mom thinks that it isn't
very smart. Maria's health
has been poor for three or
four years. We have another
girl five months old call her
Maud Myrtle. She is a large
fat good natured baby. Our too
oldest children are going to
school (Hub and Burr we call them)
The second boy Willis is around

for all manner of mischief, but
he says "we need him"; and I
suppose that we do. I would
like to be back and make
you a visit but don't know
when I will be able to do so.
Possibly I may in 1846 go, before
to the centennial exhibition if I
get my debts payed first.

I enclose Mary and Lloyd's
business taken together, Willis
and my mine also.

I would like you not to wait
as long as I have before
you write. Tell me all
you can think of concerning
our friends and things in
general. I guess that I will
let Laura finish out
this as I don't think of much
more to write. Please write on
receipt of this. Yours Truly, J West

p4 There is now a piece of wood
dead. Let's see how crops look well
this year. Josiah got a horse
power in the spring and
intended to use it to thrash
with and to churn but
he will probably not get to
churning with it this year.
The mumps went through our
family about a month ago.

We all have good health
but Josiah, he is troubled
a good deal with the headache.
You will be glad to know
that J. has subscribed
for a fifteen dollar bible.

Tell Watson and Rebecca
that I wish I had time to
answer their letter but
I wish more that they would
write to us.

Lamira West

p1 ~~4~~ 4 ^{July 29, 1878}
Blaisey July 1st

Mrs. Rebecca West.

I have been intending all
summer to afflict you with
a letter but couldn't find
time to do it. I didn't get
any one to help write it for me
so I have had to get along the
best way I could. Our children
have been going to school since
Taylor & the last three months
and Mary has been learning to
play on the organ (we have got
a new one.) So you see I haven't
any great deal of time to spare.
I intended to write to you
right away after sending that
small amount of scribble to
say that if you liked I could
send you some more. I didn't
thought from this office.

You could not want any more. I am ever so much obliged to you for those Lucia bulbs some of them are as high as the picket fence but only two kinds have bloomed. And I am well pleased with the things that you got in Portland. I have got a very extensive table some silver and napkins and now if you was here I would make you a party.

I did not get any of the plants that you sent to Philadelphia; (Mrs Goodwin and Barnahan did not know that I was here and they seemed to think that there was not enough for me but perhaps I will get some sprouts off of them next year. I did not know whether you

had sent for me.

I had company from Bel last week but I have not look for much company this summer. (Mrs Shuman died in Astoria about two weeks ago; her death was caused by a bad cold and by the time Old man Holiday had got his laughter. But few fields have come to the east this summer. Josiah has bought a church land of Mr Bond for four hundred dollars. I

suppose I shall have to look for a mother man until that ^{arm} is ~~fixed~~ ^{fixed}. We have had two men all summer. Josiah has done the most of the churning and washed and worked the butter. We made a pound and a quarter of butter to the cow for a while. Li

JAN. 23, 1885

1984 H 11.31

Broome Co. HIST. SOC.

Hazen/West Collection

Clatsop Jan 2nd, 85
Messrs. C. N. Bonnell & Men
Castle Creek N.Y.

The receiver of the photos of the Clatsop and the
Hazen/West Collection are Eugene

Dear Sister & Family
Your card was
duly received a few days
since. Also your photo
of the bath of which
I thank you. The photo
looks as if you were still
in a good state of preservation.
We are in our usual
health. Mary and Lloyd
are at Salem at school.
Mary is devoting most of
her time to her studies.
We had about 2 weeks of
unusually cold weather
with about 14 inches of
snow for 10 or 12 days
during the last of Dec. Then

no loss of stock here but
 in eastern Oregon where
 they have but little feed
 and no shelter the loss
 was considerable. I am wintering
 164 head of cattle. Have stables
 and stallions for all of them
 though I have not put about
 50 of them in yet. Have
 a load of redubegas to them
 every day. I raised about
 300 tons of them last summer.
 I only gather them as I
 want to feed them. Have
 been making buttes and
 chase all winter. The chase
 has taken a tumble is
 down to 13 or 14 c. Has been
 16 c. for about 3 years.
 Last winter was ready
 to 20. Everything is
 plentiful but money. The
 salmon can now be
 taken via river coast
 and land to much fish

86
 of the old school master
 with me and has become
 for the little ones.

The girls are a good
 deal of help to ride
 horses and drive up the
 corners. They feed the calves
 and the horses most
 of the time, putting them
 in the stable. While the
 older boys and hired
 men are milking.

Please write me a good
 long letter on receipt of
 this and tell me all
 about the old neighbors
 and our cousins that
 are left. Are uncles

Jacob and Elbert alive
 yet? Give my respect to
 all of my old acquaintances and that

So the market is flat -
 wheat is down to 40 or
 60 cents a bushel, but money
 is very close. I will
 stand about 40 head of
 cows and 30 head of
 X and this year's ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~the~~
 is about 100, though I say
 it is not as high here as
 with you so that I will
 get along, I think. My expenses
 are heavy, have 4 hired men
 and the two children that
 are away are ~~about~~
 about the same as two more
 the rest go to school at
 home but are ~~about~~ ^{about} ~~the~~
 to be of any help. I hope
 to come and make you a

pt

visit and go to the
 New Orleans exhibition
 But things did not come
 around in proper shape
 I think will come in a
 year or so and away.
 Rachel was here about two
 months ago. She thinks she
 will go to Santa Barbara
 Cal. next spring where she
 expects Rosetta her first son
 is there now. I was at Edwards
 and Williams last fall.
 They are as well as usual
 Ann is a cripple in one knee
 as you have perhaps heard
 That weakly child of theirs
 is dead. Ellen is has been
 a widow for two years.
 Her husband died of tetanus.
 Bent. Leen's eldest boy
 is married and has bought

1700. Great boy is married lives in Eastern Virginia
 (The next Henry has a place near his father was
 expecting to be married soon when he was there

they father store.

I guess that I have
 not been about the
 will be of interest to
 you. Though I don't know
 as you are acquainted
 with our youngest children
 I will mention that
 I have a baby 3 years old
 She is our only blue eyed
 boy is a nice & good boy
 Theodore Parker will be
 five next April. He is
 good and smart too.
 Then comes Rose the
 only blue eyed girl
 then David & Emily
 who is a great singer
 for her age and plays
 very well. Then Maude & the
 that is me. Good bye
 for all work and look

95

1892
Nov. 11, 1892

1984/11.32

Broome Co. HIST. SOC.

Hager/West Collection

MS # 32

Shepherd Oregon

Mrs. Harriett Boardman Nov 11, 1892

Castro Creek
N.Y.

Dear Sister

I have been ~~thinking~~ ^{pondering} about writing to you for a long time but, having a great many letters to write on business, I do most of my business in that way, have been dealing with some men in Portland for 15 years and only see ^{them} two or three times and have a habit of writing just before the mail comes along. So writing ^{when} that is not an absolute necessity gets delayed.

We are all enjoying our usual health. I will tell you about our folks list. Mary got tired of teaching this fall and has gone into a hospital in Portland to learn nursing. I don't know whether she has concluded to take a full course or not. A full course is for two years. It is about the same as it

interview with her. I don't like to
have her there. I don't like to
or her to do it for a living. I don't
can get 250 a month for teaching and
has a quarter section of land she took
up that she could get 250 a month for.
Lloyd and Willis are working on their
places near by, but don't seem to have
much ambition to get ahead but are
temperate and well behaved. They are
both in school last winter at the State Normal School where
Maud and Daisy are taking a course.
Maud will graduate at the end of this
year. Rose, Parker & Paul are going to school
at home. We have built a fine new school
house this summer. We have a belt of corn
near 2 miles and a first class teacher.
Violet stays at home yet. She was 5 last Feb.
My wife is some better mentally for the
last year or two but not able to take
charge of household affairs. She does
some work helps skin the milk and
wash. Cens makes quilts and is as
happy as a clann. She don't worry herself
about anything. She goes to church and Sunday school
calls on the neighbors. Her health physically is perfect
and she is well.

But I see Sam writing you a long letter
 I see Mrs and Kindred's folks about
 twice a year. Min comes down generally
 every summer. His youngest girl
 May graduated at the Normal school
 last summer and his youngest boy
 Bret is now there. He got to be better
 of a horse boy at home. Got his leg
 broke by fall his horse falling with him.
 Guess he is doing better now.
 Al's boys the three oldest are married and
 have stores of their own. Should have
 said the oldest Kenton had been
 married but his good for nothing
 wife got a divorce but still stays
 about him for her support. The last
 I heard of her she was rooming over
 his store. Al's youngest boy Ernie
 seems to be good boy and is only
 about 17 years old but runs at any time
 left riding a horse running to all
 kinds of the winter dress etc.
 Min's oldest son Leroy has poor health
 and a poor marriage. He is still has to

help him to make a living. His ^{and} family
and a nice wife and is getting
along first rate.

Now a little in regard to my affairs
We have worked from 50 to 60 cows this
summer, keep about 400 sheep about
20 horse including colts and a few
young stock. Beef, dairy products
and horse have been coming down
the last few years. Mutton is a
fair price. I have ~~been~~ been trying
to work into sheep and now I have
got something of a start. The demo-
crats will kick that business over
soon. Cleland is said to be elected.
Wages for farm work are the same
old figures \$30 a month. So there is
but very little in farming.
It takes all and a little ^{more} I can make
to live and send the girls to school
and run the Prune ranch.

I make nothing off from it yet. There would
have been fruit perhaps enough to pay
expenses this year but it was an off year.
Bad weather in the spring. The trees look
remarkable well. They were 1 year old when set out.
It is 3 years since the first were set. Many of them
are 3 inches in diameter. Some made a growth of 9 feet
this year. Put back last year's growth to about 1 foot. Will
cut this year nearly as much so as to make a strong branch.

1984 H 11.52

Broome Co. HIST. SOC.

Hayer/West Collection

#32

4

I have sent out good trees all to cut us
 A few died the first spring from being
 put out too late. The land and orchard
 (42) acres 30 in trees) has cost about \$1000
 There will be two or three thousand trees
 that will bare some ^{fruit} next year if it
 is a good year. I am in
 hopes will pay returning expenses
 I have been to about \$500 expense
 ditching my orchard land this
 summer and am not done yet.

I send you two pictures of my house
 taken one across the lake and the
 other from the front gate. You can
 see myself standing on the porch
 with the girls playing
 croquet. You can keep one and send
 the other to Mary.

Write soon and tell me how you
 all are getting along and all about
 the old neighbors.

Yours affectionately
 Edwin West

This will tell you more
than I can.

Gibbie will send you a
letter Monday.

These letters are some

that I thought you

too

they will

give you

some

information

wisdom

with steel

2 years
ago

MAR. 20, 1893

3/20/1893

1954 H 11.35

St. Louis, Mo.
Hager/Healy

25

Mrs. J. C. N. Boardman

Castle Creek

Mo.

Dear Sister: I received
your kind letter some time
ago and have set a time
to answer it several times
but something else claimed
my attention. I wrote part
of one a week ago but it
was misplaced so I commence
again. I was very glad
to hear of your good health
and that your children and
grand children were getting
along so well. I have been
here working some on my
prune orchard for the last
two weeks. My folks are all
well. I stop with Maude who
is married and lives here.
She has a good husband
and a pleasant home. I am

is a young ² Laver
just about her age.
was our school teacher
for two years and is ⁱⁿ the
into practice fairly well.
They have one little girl,
not very well - can't di-
gest milk very well. They
feed her mostly on Mellin's
food. I think she will get
along all right after a
while as they have got a fresh
cow and are using some
milk with the food. They call
her Rose. Mary has two
fine boys the oldest two years
old ^{Charles} Lawrence. The youngest
Laurence seven or eight
months old. They live
about 20 miles away from
my home. I see her hus-
band frequently at
Satoria. He is society com-
missioner for our county.

1984 H 11.35

I was down in California soon after I received your letter. Rose went with me. We visited Rosetta Newbold Rachel's daughter. She has one daughter with her one married, in a house one son practicing medicine in Cal. and one working in a sawmill in Wash. They have a nice home in the suburb of a little town 15 miles from San Francisco. Hayward's. They only have $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land all in fruit but some income from the money they sold their farm in Ohio. I also visited the that was Emma Smith's wife Eliphaz's daughter daughter Her husband's name is Hall. They live 70 miles north of San Francisco in Eureka. Her husband is

⁴
businessmaker and in very
comfortable circumstances
they have two sons both
married and have each one
child.

I have rented out
my dairy farm in
Clatsop and will have
more leisure now. I keep
my residence. Rose, Paul
and Violet are at home.
Theo. Parker is at the Agricul-
tural College at Cornell is
in the Sophomore
class. Lloyd Garrison is
married and lives on his
farm in Clatsop. Willis
and Daisy are in Astoria.
Since writing the above I
attended to a lecture on the
life of John Brown in
history by Mr. Copeland
the Minister of the Abolition.

church. It came about that
he gave ^{the} lecture in this way
the presence of the university
in a lecture on history scored
John Brown as traitor
and murderer. Mr. Copeland
gave a very graphic but fair
account of the antislavery
agitation in Kansas, Boston
and the country generally
and certainly vindicated
Brown. One of his grand-
daughters was at the meeting
and gave a violin solo.
We are having some hard
frosts here about the hard-
est of the season. They
have done a great deal of
damage in Cal. but I
don't think the frost here
is far enough along to
hurt anything here. Frost

seems to stand lots of frost
here just before it comes into
blossom and after the
ground is not too wet
and cold. My orchard has
been full last year about
\$1000 net I have sold it
and am going to divide
it to my four oldest girls
The fair to St Paul is now
\$100 in the tourist cars and
they are clean and very
comfortable. If any of your
folks are ever coming
out to see us now is a good
time I would like to
hear about the old neighbors.
I like to write to me.
I will answer the next you
write soon.

Hoping to
hear from you soon. Love
P. wrote Mary a long letter and says she
disagrees with her and won't write to her.

APRIL 20, 1893
1893

1984 H 11.93
Dana Co. HIST. SOC.
Hayes/Post Collection
1893

Chatsop April 20
Mrs. Mary H. Stackpole
Ruberhead
N.Y.

Dear niece

Your letter was
duly received. Also a paper
having an article on
sewerage is looking - for when
accepted thanks. I was glad
to hear from you.

Your children are bright
and pleasant looking
and I sympathize in the
loss of one of them. We have
been very fortunate in
regard to our children's
health. We have had a born
lue - have been here 21 years

and have never sent for
a doctor for ~~any~~ ^{any} of them or the other
three ^{since they have been home}. Two of them while
away to school in the
Hallamett Valley had a
doctor once each. They
all have robust health
and fair abilities and
so far have not dishonor-
ed their parents. Still I
don't think two older boys
make as much of their
opportunities as they might.
They are knocking around
on some land I gave
them in rather a listless
bachelor style. My girls
seem to have more ambition
than the boys. They are all
single and I don't see any
indications of their being

4

otherwise. Mar. The oldest is taking a course
in a hospital as a trained nurse. The only
reason she gave me was that ^{she} ~~she~~ was tired
of teaching school. She has daily lectures and
recitations gets 12 \$ per month and works early
and late - I have been there since last Sep.
and I guess intensely ~~staying~~ in the full course
of 2 years. I don't like to have her there very
well. She has no trouble in getting \$50 a
month teaching school. She has 160 ^{acres} land that
she preempted and paid for which is quite
valuable for timber. I suppose she could get
\$2500. for it. Maud and Daisy are taking a course
in the State Normal School. Maud will
graduate in about two months. She is a
first rate girl and quite ambitious in her
studies. Daisy a fine musician for the
opportunity. She is frequently leader (caption)
they call it in their concerts in a school
of sometimes 350 students. She has also
a ^{great} ~~great~~ ^{desire} for active but I don't encourage
that. Mary is also a fine singer and organist.

We spent a year in the art school in S. F.
Rose the 4th girl is at home acting as cook
and housekeeper with her mother's help.
She thinks her teacher in our school is too arbi-
trary. Theo. Perkins & Paul are getting along quite
well with him and so is Violet who has just
commenced to go. I say to the son in law
that I started this letter some time ago.
I have not been very well some of the time
and, besides, Rose and I did not feel much like
writing. We have had a remarkable amount of
rain this spring with an average low temperature.
The fruit trees are fully a month later in bloom than
last year but the prospect is for a good crop.
My man on my frame ranch at Salem writes me
that oranges are in season of quite a little crop
on my 3 years old grove and peaches, 2000
are 3 years old and about 7000. There has been
a wonderful harvest of fruit here and out this
last three years on this coast. I have no doubt
but what the audiences will be over there. He runs
the finest in the world in Oregon but they can only
be a preacher in the 2000 in Cal. They are everywhere

circle have a yacht &
encampment 2 1/2 miles
from here near the beach
a fine assembly hall
and distinguished
lecturers. We have the best
of plums and peaches and
the good trout fishing
as the world affords I guess.
Next year I am going
together alone. It may
be too long a trip for
me. The parties of Carmine
and as far as sister
Sarah's and attending the
world's fair and leaving
I should be home
I would like to go
but I cannot say more
as it will not be
for me to be or not.

If you come to S. F. you
it is all well to see you

1984 H. 11. 33
Oregon. The fruit is quite
as good and some think
superior but more ^{to dig} easily.
Some tell of average trees that
produce what would amount
to 30 tons on an acre of
dried fruit. But that is
too fabulous to believe.
Devise it 10 and it is
enough.

We would like to
have you and your
husband come and see
us this summer awful
well. Maud and Daisy
will be home for three
months after the latter
part of June and it will
be pleasant time to be
here on the coast as it
is the lovely season of
the year. As the most
beautiful disposition resort
of Oregon. The Shasta.

cousin E ~~name~~ Hall. She
used to be E ~~name~~ ^E Smith
and Eliphlet's daughter.
She lives in Heidelberg
a few miles from S. F.
You would not have any
trouble in finding her but
had better write her first
perhaps. She sent photos
of her husband and
boys and think they
will be a pleasant family
to visit. I will write you
births &c of my family.
I think a pedigree of
the Wests would be interest-
ing to the rising generation
of them and will help you
out by subscribing for
some of them. I don't think
of anything of much interest
that happened in crossing the
plains. It was a long and
monotonous journey.

Please remember me
to your husband and
little girl and write me
again soon.

Yours Truly
Jodie L. West

JAN 14, 1899

1984H11.36

Broome Co. HIST. SOC.

Hayes/West. Collection

MS # 36

Plattsburgh Jan. 14, 89
Mrs. Harriet Boardman
Castle Creek
N.Y.

Dear Sister

I received your
welcome letter a long
time ago and meant to
answer it right away,
but some how did neglect
it. But I promise you if
you will answer this
right away I will not
be so remiss next time.
My folks are all well.
I don't remember whether
my oldest son was married
when I wrote you last.
He is living on the
place adjoining Mine
Willis's. stopping with

us this winter. Parker &
Paul are at the Oregon
Agricultural College.
They are taking an Mechanical
Course. Mary lives 20 miles
away. She has two fine boys
Carol & Lawrence. Her hus-
band is a one third partner
with me in purchasing
a 240 acre farm near
Salem. Maud has a fine
girl about 15 months old.
She seemed to be troubled
with indigestion although
she was large and fat
when she was born. But
spending the summer
down here brought her
out all right and she can
drink as much milk
as a pig now although
she had to live on Mellin's
food for the first six
months. Her name is Rose

Faisy is stopping with
Maude in Salem. His
husband making a business
fight to make a living
in the law business
and is just about broke.
St. Rube is reading
Medicine with a woman
doctor at The Falls.

Violet is all the girl
we can count on at home.
My wife is getting along
with boys keeping very
well. She has improved
a good deal the last
few years. She is better
to have something to
do to keep her mind
active.

I have rented out
the dairy and don't have

very much that has to
be done at a certain
time with uncertain
help. I don't know whether
it will regret it next year
or not. If not I think
it will let the calves
suck the cows and raise
large weals.

My friend Archard did
quite well. It netted
over \$2000 ^{last season}. You can look
for a little package by
mail. They are what
we call Italians.

Please write me a letter
on receipt this. I would
like Libby to write. We used
to be good chummies.

Tell me about Eugene
folk's Hilatus and Marys
and all the rest old
neighbors.

Yours Truly
Darius West

Feb. 19, 1900

1984H11.37

Broome Co. HIST. SOC.
Hager/West Col. #37

Chattanooga, Tenn. 1/19/00

Mrs Harriett A. Borden
Castle Creek
N.Y.

My Dear Sister
I have thought
about writing to you a great
many times since I received
your last letter. But something
came along or I just got
tired or something took my
attention. So much for an
apology. My people are all
well and have been since
I last wrote you, except
Daisy got wrong for the mumps
last summer. Her best friend
man volunteered when the war
declared against Spain and
was sent to the Philippines and
stayed about a year. When
he came back he went to
the west through with a
scratch or a days sickness and

and came back to San. Francisco
and was waiting there to be
mustered out and I think Daisy
was overjoyed that and was being
unusually hard to get the house
ready for some summer board-
ers seemed to string up her
nerves so that she did not
sleep much and was in a state
of exaltation. She went to a Sanitarium
for about four months which
cost \$5. a week but is all right
now. That was the first time
I ever employed a Dr. at home
for one of my wife's children
for sickness. Maria lost her
little girl last winter. She was
a lovely little thing. She was a
large healthy looking babe when
she was born but some^{one} could
not digest her mother's milk nor
saw milk & they kept her a long
on Mellin's food for 4 or 5
months and brought her down
here in the summer and she is

a peculiar malady and just about
 got sick dead about the Drs called
 a constriction of the bowels and
 died in three days after.
 Mary has 2 fine boys. She has
 had quite a streak of luck
 last fall. She was given to a
 crumby old batchelor that
 died at his house and he
 gave her 150 acres of land &
 half of a little and some more.
 Her husband has been working
 for the same man running
 a dairy and hay farm for
 over 20 years at from 30 to 40
 a month and learning his wages
 he now has 4 farms of about
 150 acres each on an average and
 some more. Money an interest. The place
 have not more than 1000 to
 or less under cultivation. The
 is County Commissioner for
 a second term and makes a great
 deal of money that is not

of time. He is ⁴ partner with
me in a farm I bought 5 miles
from Salem a year ago last
fall for one third interest of 240
acres. There is 100 acres in cultivation
the balance mostly in oak wood
out of which we can net enough
to pay for the land \$15 an acre.
I did not intend to buy any
more land, but looked at the
place for Chris, and agreeing with
him it suited myself in too
I bought it mostly because I thought
it a very good bargain not
thinking of ever living on it.
But this place being rejected
out and not liking the way the
tenant was doing ^{with his} wife
Paul & Violet lived there several
months last fall and the last
part of the winter. It is healthy
dispute several springs on the place
that come out a good water
for household use with iron that
seemed to agree with me. It is a

5

We cut the wood to and haul
 it to Salina — it is just about
 all the way down hill gradually
 and put Angora goats on it.
 The cut off the sprouts and are
 source of profit of about \$1.50
 each for the Mohair.
~~They sell out the stumps in spring & beans~~
 I have a debt of \$1000. on that
 place. Cleared \$2300. on my
 prunes in 1898 but nothing last
 year — was not quite so good.
 Last year I improved
 that place and stock it so I am
 in debt as usual. But if I get
 a good crop of prunes this
 year I will come out all right.
 The money I had when I bought
 that place was in bank and
 they would pay no interest and
 I have too many funds that
 wanted to borrow and are never
 ready to pay. We are back every
 day. I thought to not make
 any more this year but let them

run with them and make big wheel
but as I have one good butter
that has been on the place 4 years
and have three or other - a man
with a family that breeds himself
that is a butter and cheesemaker perhaps
we may make about 40 of the
easiest of them. I don't expect
to make as much as I got us rent
but the man did not want the
place any longer and I can
keep things up and to get the better
they get practically because
they could not get reliable help
The U.S. government employs from
50 to 200 men on the jetty and building
a first class fort at the mouth of
Columbia River and pay \$1.50 a
day of 8 hours and board and
there are many logging camps there
pay 40 to 60 a month so it is hard
to keep good men to work for a
\$ for 12 hours which is all a day.
Wm. C. Allen offered to pay Parker & Paul
are at the agricultural college. Parker will graduate
next summer. Denny is at home. Paul is studying law
the coast. Please see to me when you get this mail and
not wait so long next time from your brother Paul.

Aug. 14, 1906

Broome Co. HIST. SOC.
Hayes/West Ctl.

1984H11.38

1402
Mrs. H. Boardman
Clatsop Aug 14
Castle Creek
N.Y.

Dear Sister
I received your
welcome letter just
after I had written
to you. Enclosed is
a check for \$15. in
favor of Bibb. She can
use it part for the
cemetery and part for
Geo. Parker or as she
thinks best. I am not
very flush this summer
Prunes nor wheat or
anything made in
more the expense of.
The Russian fly is no

Broome Co. HIST. SOC. 1984H11.38

trouble with the wheat
together an as low
The French Prunes are
a good crop but mine
are mostly Italians
and have missed now
two years in succession

I have done very well
with my dairy. Sold
\$500. a month for the
last two months and
have raised 70 calves
50 on whey and short
stock is high but I have
none to sell as my hay
crop is large. 275 tons
I run a mowing machine
to cut half of it and one
of three wagons that have
hauled it. My health and

seem to better than formerly
Daisy was married
to her Philippine soldier
boy and is all right
They are running our
prime ranch. They were
here a month or two
time. I have not much
time to write as L. H. G.
is waiting to take
her to the P. C.

Please
answer soon. Hope
you and yours are
well.
Your brother
Josiah Mott